



## **ALDOT Condition Assessment FAQs**

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The purpose of this document is to address the questions that arose during the condition assessment training sessions and to provide further clarification to the condition assessment process to ensure consistency between maintenance districts and divisions.

- **What do we measure when there are two or more distresses on the same section of the roadway?**
  - The more severe condition is typically assessed and documented. For example, if linear cracking is prevalent throughout the sample sites and includes multiple longitudinal and transverse cracks that are too numerous to count, the entire lane can be documented as block cracking.
- **Will the threshold for rut depth be revised?**
  - Yes, the threshold for rutting is now “greater than or equal to ½ inch.” The data collection forms and manual have been updated.
- **For concrete pavement, do we count the number of faults or the number of faulted slabs?**
  - The number of faulted slabs is counted. The data collection forms and manual have been updated.
- **When do we consider a roadway to have a paved shoulder?**
  - For the purposes of the condition assessment, a roadway is considered to have a paved shoulder when one of the following is evident:
    - A change in slope from the driving surface to the shoulder
    - A transition in height from the driving surface to the shoulder
    - A change in the type of paving material from the driving surface to the shoulder
    - When the paved surface beyond the travel lane is clearly intended to be used as a shoulder
  - For 28-foot roadway widths (14-foot lanes), the 2-feet of pavement outside the edge line is to be considered driving surface and **NOT** a paved shoulder.

- **In the case of a roadway section having both a paved and non-paved shoulder, do we inventory both and collect condition data on them?**
  - Paved shoulder and unpaved shoulder cannot exist at the same point on the roadway for the purposes of the condition assessment. If a paved shoulder exists, it should be inventoried. Any unpaved shoulder outside that area should not be inventoried. You can have paved and unpaved shoulders within the same sample section, but not at the same point within the section. Total shoulder inventory does not exceed 1056' for any given section.
- **On a divided highway, in which direction do we collect data on the features in the median?**
  - The median is to be inventoried on all samples in the North and East roadway direction.
  - The median is to be inventoried on all samples in the South and West roadway direction **IF**, for that section, the median was not already inventoried in the North or East roadway direction.
  - Always collect median data, just don't collect it twice.
- **What are the specific directives on collecting data on mowing? Will the current directives be revised?**
  - Mowing data is to be collected as part of the condition assessment activity as covered in the manual and data collection form.
  - Additional data collection activities on mowing may be considered during the mowing season.
- **On two features—brush control and tree removal—will there be more directive given with regard to site distance clearance?**
  - Further direction on brush control and tree removal with regard to “clear zone” standards will be addressed in the future.
- **When a feature begins within the sample segment and ends outside (or vice versa), do we count it (e.g., side drains, cross drains, etc.) and determine its condition?**
  - If any portion of the cross drain or side drain exists within the sample section, it should be inventoried and both openings should be assessed, even if one of the openings falls outside the sample section.
  - If the drain opening that exists within the sample site is deficient, there is no need to assess the other opening. The feature is considered deficient.
- **Do we collect data on paved turnouts and crossovers (data such as cracking, potholes, etc.)?**
  - Because turnouts and crossovers represent a small percentage of the pavement area, data can be collected on these sections and treated as part of the pavement without statistically impacting the LOS classification.

- **When there is a paved driveway, but the roadway section has unpaved shoulders, would you consider the driveway as a paved shoulder?**
  - The paved driveway segments may be omitted from the unpaved shoulder inventory without being inventoried as paved shoulder. A driveway/turnout is not a shoulder and should not be inventoried as such. Deficiencies in driveways/turnouts that are to be maintained by ALDOT should be inventoried in the appropriate category. Since driveways/turnouts represent a small percentage of the pavement area, data can be collected on these sections without statistically impacting the LOS classification.
- **When there is a group of RPMs at a point, how do we determine their condition?**
  - Each RPM is counted individually for inventory and condition.
  - If a new RPM was placed beside an old RPM because the old one was deficient and was not removed, inventory and rate the newer one, not the older one.
- **What should be done if a sample site falls on a bridge, construction site, or an unsafe zone?**
  - The sample site should be skipped or moved forward or backward off the bridge or out of the unsafe area until a safe site is found. Active construction sites should be skipped.
- **How do we collect data on raised medians?**
  - If a median is designed to be raised, high shoulder measurements should not be taken.
- **Do we consider a two-way turn lane as a lane or a median?**
  - **If it is to be considered as a lane, then do we consider the road segment as an undivided roadway?**
  - **If it is to be considered as a median, then do we consider the road segment as a divided highway?**
  - Two-way turn lanes (typically in five-lane sections) should be evaluated as an undivided roadway section and evaluated from ROW to ROW.
- **How are rumble strips handled?**
  - Painted and raised rumble strips perpendicular to the direction of travel, should be counted and rated as Pavement Markings (like Symbols and Legends). Unpainted rumble strips along the edge of a travel lane require very little, if any, maintenance and should be ignored.
- **Should side drains that service private driveways or turnouts be inventoried and assessed for condition?**
  - Yes, if it falls within or near ALDOT ROW.

- **How are divided highway median ditches inventoried regarding front slopes and back slopes?**
  - For divided highway medians with ditches, each slope is inventoried based on its design. For the purposes of the condition assessments, medians are inventoried as having two front slopes.
- **How do we inventory and assess NHS non-divided highways?**
  - NHS non-divided highways should be inventoried and assessed on the full ROW.
- **Are deficient guardrail delineators counted as guardrail or delineators?**
  - Deficient guardrail delineators are counted as deficient delineators. Record the total number of delineators for inventory and record the number deficient.
- **Are ramps and service roads to be inventoried or evaluated?**
  - No. Evaluations and sample sites are limited to mainline highways and do not include ramps or service roads. If ramps fall within your sample site, move forward or backward or just evaluate the section as if the ramps were not present.
- **Since culverts are now being constructed with approximately one foot of the culvert bottom buried below grade, should this be included in the reduction of flow capacity?**
  - No. Culverts should be evaluated based on the designed flow of the culvert.
- **Are slotted drains inventoried as length or per each?**
  - Slotted drains are inventoried as per each, not length. A 100-foot section of slotted drain is counted as 1 slotted drain for inventory. The same guidance applies to deficient slotted drain.
- **If mowing areas are being maintained by others, do we inventory and record data?**
  - Yes. Mowing areas, signalized intersections, and lighting that is being maintained by others should be inventoried and deficiencies recorded.
- **Should the slope paving under a bridge overpass on the interstate be measured for the inventory?**
  - Slope paving under a bridge overpass should not be inventoried or inspected for deficiencies.